

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

January 2012



## Eastgate / I-90 planning nears completion

Work is nearing completion on the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use & Transportation Project, a year-long effort to establish a vision for the future growth of the Eastgate/I-90 commercial corridor.

A Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) has been working with staff since November of 2010 to design a 20-year plan to ensure that Eastgate/I-90 – one of Bellevue’s major employment centers – continues to be an attractive, economically vibrant part of the community. Currently the area provides jobs for nearly one-fifth of the city’s workforce.

On Thursday, Jan. 5, the CAC could finalize its work on the “preferred alternative,” a plan emphasizing:

- Economic vitality, including preservation of neighborhood-serving retail;
- Transportation network enhancements;
- Improvement of the area’s visual character as a major link in the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway;
- Protection of sensitive environmental features;
- Recognition and leveraging of Bellevue College’s prominent role in the corridor; and
- Establishment of a transit-oriented, mixed-use focal point associated with the Eastgate Park & Ride.

The preferred alternative is scheduled for City Council discussion on Jan. 17, with final consideration expected later in the first quarter of 2012. For more information see the project website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>.

## Teen Center opening in Lake Hills

The new year is bringing new life and a new identity to the former Lake Hills Library. If all goes according to plan, the building will house a teen center featuring programs for middle school and younger high school students beginning in February.

Vacant since the September 2010 relocation of the Lake Hills Library, the former library building is being converted to a youth center by the Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue. After school and early evening programming will include a computer lab, a recreation area, and components focusing on music, leadership, community service, and homework assistance.

Interior refurbishing of the building at 15228



Lake Hills Blvd. was donated in part by the Master Builders Care Foundation. Conditional use of the building as a teen center was approved by the City Council on Dec. 12. The East Bellevue Community Council will consider the conditional use at its Jan. 3 meeting.

## **Commissioners take another look at Neighborhood Business zone**

Bellevue Planning Commissioners will continue their discussion of Neighborhood Business (NB) zoning at the commission's next regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Three neighborhood shopping centers – Newport Hills, Northtowne and Bel East – are zoned NB, along with several smaller parcels across the city. Recently proposed changes in the zone would focus on the shopping centers and have little effect on the smaller parcels

On Dec. 14, the Planning Commission heard public testimony on one proposed change – to increase the maximum allowable size of certain retail, service and recreational uses. The purpose of this, and other potential changes, is to ensure the viability of neighborhood retail centers, some of which are challenged in their efforts to retain neighborhood-serving tenants.

At their January meeting, Commissioners may decide whether to recommend adopting the proposed change in size limits, or they may move on to discuss other potential changes such as: adding certain uses to those currently permitted in the NB zone; eliminating some uses currently permitted; or narrowing the application of NB zoning changes to only one or two of the NB zoned shopping centers. The Commission's meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

## **Apply today for a Neighborhood Match Grant**

You and your neighbors can make a difference in your neighborhood with the Neighborhood Match Grant Program. Apply for up to \$5,000 to transform an entry or a common area, replace deteriorating mailboxes, install a neighborhood entry sign, or put in a community art project. To qualify for the program the neighborhood must agree to provide 50 percent of the project cost in dollars or labor. To obtain an application or additional information, contact Patricia Knight at (425) 452-7917 or log on to the city's web site at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood\\_match\\_requirements.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_match_requirements.htm)



### **Match projects**

can include Neighborhood entry signs and landscaping (above left and right), Neighborhood art (above center) and mailbox stand replacement (before and after at right).



## Learn to negotiate and manage conflict

The Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program is offering 24 hours of training this month in conflict management and negotiation. In four sessions, participants will focus on:

- Practicing communications skills to de-escalate tension;
- Identifying the “zone of agreement” in money negotiations;
- Crafting creative solutions to nuisance disputes;
- Managing situations when values and emotions are high; and
- Learning how culture and gender influence negotiation styles.

The training will be held at City Hall from 5 to 9 p.m. on two Wednesdays, Jan. 18 and 25, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on two Fridays, Jan. 20 and 27. The cost is \$295. To register, contact Gwen Jones at 425-452-4091 or [gjones@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:gjones@bellevuewa.gov).

## Save the dates for Bellevue Neighborhood Forums

Last April, more than 100 residents joined author Peter Lovenheim as he kicked off the 2010 Bellevue Neighborhood Forum with his deeply personal account of creating neighborhood connections. That interactive discussion resulted in a community-brainstormed list of ways to build stronger connections among neighbors.

In the second Neighborhood Forum, May 12, expert panelists joined residents as they focused on Bellevue’s changing demographics, discussing how to connect with diverse groups and individuals.

For 2012, the Bellevue Neighborhood Forums will go a step further – not just building connections, but creating caring networks that address neighborhood and community needs. At the first forum on Feb. 29, inspirational author and leadership expert Bill Grace will share his “common good” leadership philosophy and commitment to pursue a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

A second forum, on March 29, will focus on education and discussion around timely, critical issues that affect neighborhood and community livability. Discussion could include such topics as: housing the people in our community, and providing healing environments for at-risk youth.

For those ready to move from intention to action, the April 19 program will be a hands-on workshop format, resulting in a concrete strategy for progress. There is no charge, all are welcome, and forums may be attended individually or as a series.

### **Mockingbird Hill: This neighborhood is making an important difference**

Mockingbird Hill, the neighborhood just west of Factoria, has a new lease on life after reorganizing its neighborhood association and taking on a series of humanitarian projects. In the few months since its reorganization, the neighborhood has committed itself to making “a small but important difference in lives,” according to the association newsletter.

Those “small” gestures include preparing care packages for families in the military, staging a holiday food drive, driving neighbors to medical appointments, and preparing meals for neighbors with health issues. Looking toward warmer weather, the group is already planning neighborhood clean-up and landscape improvements.

Again this year, Neighborhood Forums will be co-sponsored by the neighborhoods themselves. If your neighborhood association is interested in helping with the forums, contact Julie Ellenhorn before Jan. 16, 425-452-6836 or [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).



## **January meetings**

*(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)*

**1/2 New Year Holiday** – All City offices closed

**1/3 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Swearing in of Councilmember-elect John Stokes; election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor; update on the proposed draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (2013-2018) and draft 2012 Ecology Stormwater Management Manual (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Management Brief providing update on South Bellevue Annexation; Consent Calendar

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**1/3 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Conditional use application to use the former Lake Hills Library at 15228 Lake Hills Blvd. as a teen center

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)

**1/5 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-120) Sex offenders in the community and community safety, 2012 Human Services Commission work plan, 2013-2014 funding strategies

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**1/5 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Stormwater Management Program, Stormwater Guide, Solid Waste 101 [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/envIRON\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/envIRON_serv_comm.htm)

**1/5 Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee** (5:30, 1E-108) Final work on Preferred Alternative

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>

**1/9 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) East Link; Lakemont Chevron rezone application [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**1/10 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm)

**1/11 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Business Land Use Code Amendment study session, 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE station area planning briefing

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**1/12 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Transportation Facilities Plan update, and Downtown Transportation Plan update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**1/16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday** – All City offices closed

**1/17 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Eastgate/I-90 area study preliminary preferred alternative; possible NPDES follow-up from Jan. 3 discussion (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Presidential Volunteer Service Awards; Consent Calendar; Lakemont Chevron rezone application

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**1/19 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-120) 2013-14 funding strategies

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**1/23 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**1/23 State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)** (5:15, Lake Hills Library, 15590 Lake Hills Blvd.) Public hearing for certification of Therapeutic Health Services Eastside Branch, an opiate substitution treatment program proposed at 1412 140<sup>th</sup> Pl. NE

**1/25 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program Update study session [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

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Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.